

Amendments to the Claims: This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A method for treating contaminated soil and water comprising the steps of:

a) preparing a stable dispersion of zero-valent iron particles having a maximum size of 10 μm in an aqueous solution containing a dispersant being one of block or graft copolymers containing both anchoring and stabilizing chains; and

b) subjecting said dispersion to one of a grinding or milling operation to produce a solution containing said zero-valent iron particles having an average size less than 100 nanometers; and

c) applying said zero valent iron dispersion to said contaminated soil and water.

2. (Cancelled)

3. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 2-1 including the step of using one of sodium polymethacrylate or ammonium polymethacrylate as a dispersant to stabilize said colloidal suspension containing zero valent iron particles.

4. (Currently Amended) A composition for treating contaminants in soil or water consisting of:

a stabilized colloidal suspension of zero valent iron particles stabilized by one of a block or graft copolymer containing both anchoring and stabilizing chains wherein said zero valent iron particles have an average size less than 100 nanometers.

5. (Cancelled)

6. (Currently Amended) A composition according to claim 5-4 including less than 1 to 2% by weight of one of ammonium polymethacrylate and/or sodium polymethacrylate as a stabilizer for said suspension.

7. (Original) A composition according to claim 4 wherein said suspension includes up to 30% by wt iron particles.

8. (Currently Amended) A method for preparing a suspension of zero-valent iron particles comprising the steps of:

preparing a stabilized dispersant of iron particles having a size no larger than 10 μm by introducing one of a block or graft copolymer containing both anchoring and stabilizing chains into said dispersant as a stabilizer having a size no larger than 10 μm ; and

grinding or milling said stabilized dispersant for a time sufficient to reduce the size of the zero valent iron particles to a maximum size of 100 nm.

9. (Cancelled)

10. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 9-8 including the step of introducing one of sodium polymethacrylate or ammonium polymethacrylate into said dispersant as said stabilizer.

11. (Original) A method according to claim 10 including the step of using from 1 to 2% by weight of said ammonium polymethacrylate or said sodium polymethacrylate to produce said stabilized dispersant.

12. (Original) A method according to claim 10 including the step of using up to 30% by weight iron particles.